

09.09.21 2pm - 4pm
British Summer Time

Nuclear Weapons & Climate Change



An Intergenerational Dialogue in Commemoration of the International Day Against Nuclear Tests

**Lecture Hall, Central Hall Westminster
& Online On Zoom**

Organised by

**The Embassy of Kazakhstan
in the United Kingdom,
Parliamentarians for Nuclear
Non-Proliferation & Disarmament,
Nursultan Nazarbayev Foundation,
Youth Fusion - Abolition 2000 Youth Network**



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Program 09.09.21

In-person Moderator: **Prof. Dan Plesch**, Founder & Director, SCRAP

Online Moderator: **Vanda Proskova**, Vice-Chair, Prague Vision Institute

Opening Session

Welcome message: **Mukhtar Tileuberdi**, Deputy Prime Minister – Minister of Foreign Affairs of Kazakhstan (video)

Introductory comments: **Alkey Margulanuly**, Deputy Executive Director, Nursultan Nazarbayev Foundation (video)

Opening presentation: **Lord Hannay of Chiswick**, Co-Chair, UK APPG on Global Security & Non-proliferation (in person)

Panel 1: Short & Long Term Environmental Impacts of Nuclear Weapons Testing & Use

Ambassador Olzhas Suleimenov, President of the Nevada-Semipalatinsk International Anti-Nuclear Movement (video)

Moetai Brotherson MP, Member of the National Assembly of France & the French Polynesian Assembly (in person)

Aigerim Seitenova, Human Rights Professional (in person)

Panel 2: Nuclear War & Climate Change: Nuclear Winter, Famine, Darkness

Professor Andreas Nidecker MD, President, Basel Peace Office (online)

Marie-Claire Graf, Vice-President, Swiss Youth for Climate (online)

Video Message: Dr Robert Floyd, Executive Director of the CTBTO

Panel 3: Move the Nuclear Weapons Money

Dr Philip Webber, Chair Scientists for Global Responsibility (online)
Kehkashan Basu, Founder & CEO, The Green Hope Foundation (online)

Panel 4: The Nuclear–Climate Nexus, International Law and Civil Society Action

Rob van Riet, Senior advisor to PNND & the World Future Council
(in person)
Nicole Ann Ponce, Co-Founder & Coordinator, I am Climate Justice
Movement (online)

Open discussion

Closing remarks

Alyn Ware, Global Coordinator, PNND (online)
HE Mr Erlan Idrissov, Kazakhstan Ambassador to the UK (in person)



**Atomic bomb test at the
Semipalatinsk test site in Kazakhstan.**

Event outline

This event focuses on two of our time's most pressing global challenges: climate change and the threat of nuclear war, as well as the links between these.

Both challenges pose existential threats to the survival and wellbeing of humanity. Neither issue can be resolved solely at national levels, but require international cooperation and the building of common security. Both climate change and nuclear weapons have trans-generational impact. The use of nuclear weapons in wartime could create catastrophic climatic consequences far beyond current climate change. And the human and financial resources currently devoted to nuclear weapons could instead be invested to assist carbon emission reduction and climate stabilisation.

The event is structured as an intergenerational dialogue of youth leaders with legislators, experts, officials and other participants.



Semipalatinsk test site in Kazakhstan
credit EurasiaExpert.



The International Day Against Nuclear Tests

A quarter of all worldwide nuclear tests were conducted at the Semey test site for almost half a century during Soviet times. 2021 marks 30 years since the official closure of the nuclear test site in Kazakhstan. Despite the closure, the past follows in the form of humanitarian and environmental consequences of the nuclear testing that affect residents of the area and will continue to have a transgenerational impact.

In contributing to the cause of a nuclear-weapon free world and with the aim of increasing public awareness about the effects of nuclear legacy, Kazakhstan initiated a resolution at the United Nations on endorsing Aug.29 as the International Day against Nuclear Testing (IDANT). The date was proposed as a symbol representing the day of the first nuclear test conducted at the Semey test site in 1949 as well as the day of the closure of the test site in 1991.

The resolution calls for increasing awareness and education “about the effects of nuclear weapon test explosions or any other nuclear explosions and the need for their cessation as one of the means of achieving the goal of a nuclear-

weapon-free world.” Commemorating this day on an annual basis constitutes an act of memorialisation. Every year, various events and activities take place to observe the day in Kazakhstan and around the world. This type of symbolic expression helps to not only see those memories but also to pass them on through feeling, experiencing and emotionally re-connecting to the events of the past.

In order to engage more youth in the project this year, the office of the United Nations on Disarmament Affairs in cooperation with the CTBTO, the Permanent Mission of Kazakhstan to the United Nations and Youth Fusion initiated an international campaign #StepUp4Disarmament to raise awareness about IDANT and to commemorate the day by taking action. Over 310 participants from 67 countries registered for the campaign, completing a distance of 8.29 kilometers or tracking 10.9k steps to emphasise physical activity and support efforts to raise awareness of the devastating health consequences of nuclear testing, as well as to promote Sustainable Development Goal 3 on ensuring good health and well-being for all at all ages. *(Credit Marzhan Nurzhan, Youth Fusion Founder).*



“Stronger Than Death” memorial for victims of the nuclear tests. Semey, Kazakhstan.



UN Secretary-General António Guterres' 2021 IDANT Message

Today marks the 30th anniversary of the closure of Semipalatinsk nuclear test site in Kazakhstan, the largest nuclear test site in the Soviet Union. The closure of that site, where more than 450 nuclear tests took place, signaled the end of the era of unrestrained nuclear testing. Soon afterwards, countries started negotiating the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, the CTBT, which was adopted five years later.

Nuclear tests caused enormous human suffering and environmental damage. They had terrible consequences on the health of people living in affected areas. Many were relocated from their ancestral lands, disrupting their lives and livelihoods. Pristine environments and ecosystems were destroyed, which will take decades, if not centuries, to heal. In the three decades following the closure of the Semipalatinsk site, we have witnessed the gradual development of a norm against nuclear testing.

The CTBT bans all explosive nuclear weapons tests anywhere, by any country, putting a brake on the nuclear arms race and providing a powerful barrier to the development of new nuclear weapons. However, the full potential of the CTBT has not been realized, as the treaty has not entered into force despite its near universal acceptance among States.

I once again urge those states that have not yet ratified the treaty to do so without delay. Eight States whose ratifications are necessary for the Treaty to enter into force have a special responsibility. At the same time, all States should maintain or implement moratoria on nuclear explosions. The International Day Against Nuclear Tests is an opportunity to reaffirm our commitment to outlaw all nuclear tests, by anyone, anywhere. There is no excuse to delay achieving this goal. (*Credit UN.org*).

NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT AND NON-PROLIFERATION: KAZAKHSTAN'S WAY



Committee of International Information of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan

Kazakhstan's firm international position is that nuclear disarmament and the abolition of nuclear testing are essential preconditions for global security. The first step, which has laid the foundation for the future nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation policy of Kazakhstan, was the closure of the Semipalatinsk Test Site on 29 August 1991. Over four decades, the Soviet Union had conducted 456 nuclear tests at the Semipalatinsk Test Site, which exposed up to 1.5 million people in Kazakhstan to nuclear fallout and caused colossal damage to the environment. In 2009, UN General Assembly declared 29 August to be the International Day against Nuclear Tests. Upon independence, Kazakhstan voluntarily relinquished its inherited nuclear arsenal – the fourth largest in the world at the time – and worked with its international partners to safely disarm all materials.

Kazakhstan, together with its neighbours, created a Nuclear Weapon Free Zone in Central Asia. The treaty was signed in Semipalatinsk on 8 September 2006. In 2015, the UN General Assembly adopted the Universal Declaration for the Achievement of a Nuclear-Weapons-Free World put forward by Kazakhstan. Kazakhstan is a party to the NPT, the CTBT, the TPNW, and the Semipalatinsk Treaty (CANWFZ). At the 70th session of the UN General Assembly in 2015, First President Nursultan Nazarbayev called on UN member states to rid the world of nuclear weapons by the centenary of the United Nations in 2045. Kazakhstan's nuclear disarmament initiatives have been continued under President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev, who in 2019 signed the Law of Kazakhstan "On Ratification of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons".

Nursultan Nazarbayev Foundation

Nursultan Nazarbayev Foundation is the largest non-profit foundation in the country, the activity of which is based on professional management principles and systematic approach to all projects. Foundation was established in 2000 and today is implementing the ideas of the First President of Kazakhstan Nursultan Nazarbayev

by carrying out projects aimed at improving the competitiveness of human capital and creation of a new generation of Kazakhstanis.

The work of the Foundation is aimed to support talented young people, the development of social projects and civil initiatives, and the development of a competitive expert-analytical center.

Youth Fusion - Abolition 2000 Youth Network

Youth Fusion is a world-wide networking platform for young individuals and organizations in the field of nuclear disarmament, risk-reduction and non-proliferation. The platform focuses on youth action and intergenerational dialogue, building on the links between disarmament, peace, climate action, sustainable

development and building back better from the pandemic. Youth Fusion's goals are clear: to inform, educate, connect and engage their fellow students, activists and enthusiasts. Through these activities, and as part of Abolition 2000 Network, Youth Fusion is contributing to the total abolition of nuclear weapons.

Parliamentarians for Nuclear Non-Proliferation & Disarmament

Parliamentarians for Nuclear Non-proliferation and Disarmament (PNND) is a global, cross-party network of legislators working to reduce nuclear risks, prevent the proliferation of nuclear weapons and achieve the peace and security of a nuclear-weapon-free world. PNND assists parliamentarians to take action at national, regional and global levels, including through the United Nations and inter-parliamentary forums such as the Inter-Parliamentary Union and the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly. PNND does not adopt policy positions on nuclear disarmament issues. However, members are active in a range of issues and initiatives including nuclear posture reviews, nuclear testing, establishment of nuclear-

weapon-free zones, phasing out the role of nuclear weapons in security doctrines, nuclear weapons budgets & investments/divestment, reducing nuclear threats through diplomacy and the development of treaty frameworks for the global prohibition and verified elimination of nuclear weapons. PNND has produced a number of resources for parliamentarians, including most recently *Assuring our Common Future: A guide to parliamentary action in support of disarmament for security and sustainable development*, an online resource produced in cooperation with the Inter-Parliamentary Union, UN Office of Disarmament Affairs and others. →

PNND is led by a global council of over 40 leading legislators and eight co-presidents: Baroness Sue Miller (UK), Vice-Chair of the UK All Party Parliamentary Group on Global Security and Nonproliferation; Bill Kidd (Scotland), Convenor of the Scottish Parliament Cross-Party Group on Nuclear Disarmament; Senator Edward Markey (USA), Chair of the US Senate Foreign Affairs Sub-Committee on East Asia; Christine Muttonen (Austria), Former President of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly; Saber Chowdhury (Bangladesh), Honorary President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union; Mani Shankar Aiyar (India), Member of Global Zero and Chair of the Rajiv Gandhi Action Plan Group for a Nuclear Weapons Free and Nonviolent World Order; Taro Kono (Japan), Former Minister for Foreign Affairs (Honorary Co-President) and Chung Sye-kyun (South Korea), Former Prime Minister of South Korea and Former president of the National Assembly.





PNND holds a consultation meeting of legislators, UN officials and experts at the United Nations in New York in February 2020 as part of the preparation of *Assuring our Common Future: A guide to parliamentary action in support of disarmament for security and sustainable development*

H.E. Mukhtar Tileuberdi **Deputy Prime Minister - Minister of Foreign Affairs** **of the Republic of Kazakhstan**

Foreign Minister Tileuberdi is an experienced career diplomat. Before his current appointment, he served as First Deputy Foreign Minister of Kazakhstan. Earlier, Mr Tileuberdi represented Kazakhstan as its Ambassador to a number of countries, including Malaysia, Switzerland, Indonesia, and others. He has served as his country's representative to the Holy See, as well as a Permanent Representative of Kazakhstan to the United Nations Office and other international organisations in Geneva.



Introductory comments

Alkey Margulanuly

Deputy Executive Director, Nursultan Nazarbayev Fdn.



After completing higher education in Eurasian National University (2011), Alkey Margulanuly started his job as an executive producer of TV and Radio Corporation “Kazakhstan”, in 2013 he worked

for the Department of Strategic Planning and Information Technologies of the Ministry of Education and Science and as Advisor to the Akim of Shymkent. In 2015 he acted as Administrative Assistant for the Konrad Adenauer Foundation in Kazakhstan. In 2015-2017 he was Senior Research Fellow at the Li Ka Shing Center at Stanford University, California, USA. His career at Nazarbayev Foundation started in 2018 in the Center for International Programs. In 2019 he was promoted to position of a Deputy Executive Director of the Nursultan Nazarbayev Foundation.

Lord Hannay of Chiswick **Former UK Permanent Rep. to the EU & UN**

Lord Hannay is Chair of the UN All-Party Parliamentary Group (APPG). A career diplomat, he joined the UK Diplomatic Service in 1959, with initial postings to Tehran and Kabul. He served as U.K. Permanent Representative to the EU and then to the UN. Between 1996 and 2003, he was UK Special Representative for Cyprus and, in 2004, served on the UN Secretary-General's High Level Panel on Threats, Challenges and Change, which proposed reforms including the Human Rights Council and Peacebuilding Commission. In 2001 he was made a life peer, and in 2003 a Companion of Honour. He co-chairs the APPG on global security and non-proliferation and



is also a member of the Top Level Group of UK Parliamentarians for Multilateral Nuclear Disarmament and Non-Proliferation.

Video Message

Dr Robert Floyd **Executive Director CTBTO**



Dr. Robert Floyd began his tenure as Executive Secretary of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization (CTBTO) on 1 August 2021.

Prior to joining CTBTO, Dr. Floyd was the Director General of the Australian Safeguards and Non-proliferation Office (ASNO) from 2010 to 2021, where he was responsible for Australia's implementation of and compliance with various international treaties and conventions including the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material (CPPNM) and the Chemical Weapons Convention. With a Ph.D. in population ecology, Dr. Floyd spent the first 20 years of his career as a research scientist with the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO).

Dr Dan Plesch **Founder & Director SCRAP Weapons**

Professor Plesch is Director of the Centre for International Studies and Diplomacy in the Politics Department of SOAS University of London and is a 'door tenant' at the legal chambers of 9 Bedford Row, in London. His most recent research 'Women and the UN: a new history of women's international human rights' with Professor Rebecca Adami is published in 2021. He is the author of 'Human Rights After Hitler' - featured on Netflix, reported on US National Public Radio and in other international media. He is also the Director of SCRAP Weapons, responsible for its strategy to enhance international security through General and Complete Disarmament.

The Strategic Concept for Removal of Arms and Proliferation (SCRAP) is a campaign that suggests using proven agreements as a basis for general and complete disarmament



(GCD), proposing a ten-year implementation period for GCD using existing mechanisms as a basis. SCRAP's focus on a rapid and holistic approach is designed to demonstrate its practicality and to help change the paradigm from a fragmentary and step-by-step approach to one that offers a highly challenging and yet demonstrably practical message to vested interests.

Vanda Proskova **Vice-Chair PragueVision Institute**



Ms. Vanda Proskova is a graduate student of International Law coming from the Czech Republic. She currently serves as the Vice-

Chair of PragueVision Institute for Sustainable Security, PNND's Director of Gender, Peace and Security program and co-convenor of the Abolition 2000 Youth Network. She was the head-coordinator of the international Bertha von Suttner conference in Prague in October 2019, the youth-coordinator of the Move the Nuclear Weapons Money campaign, and she also coordinated the Women's Appeal for Human Security, public health, peace and sustainable development which was signed by 250 women leaders from over 50 countries.

Panel 1

Short & Long Term Environmental Impacts of Nuclear Weapons Testing & Use

Aigerim Seitenova **Human Rights Professional**

Aigerim Seitenova has three years of experience in the nonprofit sector and earned a EU Global Campus Master's degree in Human Rights and Democratization in the Caucasus. She worked as the Head of the Department of Programmes in local NGO 'Wings of Liberty' which is based in Astana, Kazakhstan. Aigerim has diverse work experience in coordinating educational projects, as well as in planning, monitoring, evaluation, research, reporting, and knowledge management. She is an expert for the OSCE #Perspectives20-30 where she contributed to the chapter on human rights and peace education, and she collaborated



with UN Women in Kazakhstan by coordinating the Civil Society Advisory Group.

Ambassador Olzhas Suleimenov President, Nevada-Semipalatinsk Movement



Olzhas Suleimenov became a world-renown name in 1989, when he led the establishment of the international environmental movement, Nevada-Semipalatinsk, which campaigned to close nuclear sites in Nevada and in the Semipalatinsk Oblast of Kazakhstan. He has a diplomatic rank of Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary and served as Ambassador of Kazakhstan to Italy and France as well as Permanent Representative of Kazakhstan to the UNESCO.

Moetai Brotherson MP France National Assembly Member



Moetai Brotherson is elected member of the french « Assemblée nationale », and also of the « Assemblée de Polynésie française ». He is also a member of «Tavini huiiraatira no te ao māohi » the main political party in french Polynesia who fought for 30 years against the french nuclear tests in Moruroa and Fangataufa. He's the author of a law proposal at the french parliament about the consequences of those nuclear tests.

Panel 2 Nuclear War & Climate Change

Prof. (em.) Andreas Nidecker MD **President Basel Peace Office**

Prof. (em.) Andreas Nidecker, MD completed his postgraduate education in the US, Canada and Switzerland (Dipl Am Board of Radiology). Associate Professor of Radiology at U of Basel. Active in IPPNW since the early eighties, including board member of IPPNW for the past 38 years and past president. Head organizing Cttee of the 2010 IPPNW World Congress in Basel. Co-organizer of the 2017 IPPNW U of Basel Congress “Human Rights, Future Generations and Crimes in the nuclear Age “. Actively accompanying and successfully achieving the political decision to phase-out of Nuclear Energy in



Switzerland, as decided in 2011. With director Alyn Ware in 2012 co-founder and up to the present president of the Basel Peace Office.

Marie-Claire Graf **Vice-President Swiss Youth for Climate**



Marie-Claire Graf is a youth advocate, change maker and public speaker for a just transition towards

sustainable development and ambitious climate action through her diverse engagement in several initiatives on a local, national and international level. She was initiating and is leading several associations and movements around climate action, sustainable development, youth and women empowerment, food systems transformation and education such as Sustainability Week International or Youth Constituency YOUNGO of UN Climate Change. Through her work, she has been recognized with different awards and prizes such as the United Nations Youth Climate Champion of Switzerland.

Panel 3 Move the Nuclear Weapons Money

Dr Philip Webber

Chair Scientists for Global Responsibility

Dr Webber spent 12 years as a research physicist at Imperial College, and has a PhD in surface science. From 1981, Philip was active in Scientists Against Nuclear Arms (SANA), and co-authored *London After the Bomb*, and *Crisis Over Cruise*. He co-organised of the London Nuclear Warfare Tribunal in 1983. He has continued to write articles on defence and security. For example analysis of UK defence R&D and a series of articles on nuclear weapons. He was one of the expert witnesses on



the impacts of nuclear weapons for the conferences leading up to the UN nuclear ban treaty.

Kehkashan Basu **Founder & CEO Green Hope Fdn.**



Winner of the 2016 International Children's Peace Prize, Kehkashan Basu is an iconic youth leader, global influencer, environmentalist, champion of women and

children's rights, TEDx speaker, Climate Reality Mentor, author, musician, peace and sustainability campaigner. A Forbes 30 Under 30 and the first-ever Winner of the Voices Youth Gorbachev-Schultz Legacy Award for her work on nuclear disarmament, Kehkashan is a United Nations Human Rights Champion, a National Geographic Young Explorer, a UN Habitat Young City Champion, the Regional Organizing Partner for North America for the NGO Major Group and one of Canada's Top25 Women of Influence. Kehkashan is the Founder-President of global social innovation enterprise Green Hope Foundation.

Panel 4

The Nuclear-Climate Nexus, International Law & Civil Society Action

Rob Van Riet **Senior Advisor World Future Council**

Mr. van Riet holds an LL.M. in Public International Law from the University of Amsterdam. From 2010 to 2018, he directed the World Future Council's Disarmament Programme, focusing on the abolition and elimination of nuclear weapons. From 2014 to 2016, Mr. van Riet served as Associate Member on the Legal Team for the Marshall Islands in their cases against the nuclear-armed states in the International Court of Justice. In 2018, he became Director of the World Future Council's Climate & Energy Programme, aimed at improving legislative frameworks for climate security and mitigation and the achieving a



just energy transition. Currently an independent consultant on issues related to arms control, sustainable development and climate & energy.

Nicole Ann Ponce **Co-Founder I am Climate Justice Movement**



Nicole Ponce is Coordinator of the I am Climate Justice (ICJ) movement, Research Fellow to the Normandy Chair for Peace, and a graduate of Juris Doctor and Political Science from the Philippines. She is currently part of the core group of the World's Youth for Climate Justice and coordinator for the asian front of the campaign. Her work is focused on using law as a tool for social change especially in the field of climate action and human rights.

Alyn Ware **Global Coordinator PNND**

Alyn Ware is a peace educator and disarmament advocate from New Zealand currently living in Prague, Czech Republic. He serves as Global Coordinator of Parliamentarians for Nuclear Non-proliferation and Disarmament, International Representative for Aotearoa (New Zealand) Lawyers for Peace, Director of the Basel Peace Office and Peace and Disarmament Program Director for the World Future Council. He is co-founder of UNFOLD ZERO, Move the Nuclear Weapons Money, NoFirstUse Global and the Abolition 2000 global network for the elimination of nuclear weapons. He is a recipient of a number of international awards



including the Right Livelihood Award ('Alternative Nobel Peace Prize').

H.E. Mr Erlan Idrissov

Kazakhstan Ambassador to the UK



Representing Kazakhstan as Ambassador to the United Kingdom since 2017, Ambassador Idrissov has twice been Kazakhstan's Minister of Foreign Affairs and served for five years as the country's Ambassador to the United States in 2007-2012. He authored numerous articles on Kazakhstan's foreign policy and multilateral diplomacy. Ambassador Idrissov speaks English, French, Urdu, and Hindi.



METHODIST CENTRAL HALL

Methodist Central Hall Westminster



The first ever **UN General Assembly session** in 1946, held at **Central Hall Westminster**, passed Resolution 1(1) calling for “the elimination from national armaments of atomic weapons and of all other major weapons adaptable to mass destruction.”

